

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release July 23, 1974

McGarvey 202/343-5634

### PHASEOUT OF LEAD SHOT FOR WATERFOWL HUNTING PROPOSED

Proposed regulations to ban lead shotgun ammunition for waterfowl hunting throughout much of the United States starting in 1976 are being published in the Federal Register, Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, said today. A draft Environmental Impact Statement discussing the entire issue is also now available to the public.

Comments are invited on both the proposed regulations and the draft impact statement. All comments received through November 15, 1974, will be considered, and public hearings will be held in four major cities across the Nation before a final decision is made. The time and place of these hearings is yet to be determined, but 30 days advance public notice will be given by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The proposed regulations are designed to stop further deposition of lead pellets which occurs during hunting in areas frequented by aquatic birds. Spent lead pellets are eaten by waterfowl, resulting in lead poisoning and death to many birds each year.

The ban on lead is proposed for the Atlantic Flyway beginning in the 1976 hunting season, in the Mississippi Flyway in the 1977 season, and in the Central and Pacific Flyways in the 1978 season. In the latter two western flyways, where lead poisoning appears to be less uniformly distributed than in the others, the proposed ban on lead may be limited to specific areas if this approach proves feasible for eliminating poisoning from lead shotgun pellets.

(MORE)

The proposed regulations would require the use of steel shot or other types of pellets that are not poisonous and applies only to the hunting of ducks, geese, swans, and coots. The hunting of other types of birds does not appear to contribute significantly to the deposit of lead pellets.

Although steel is presently the only suitable alternative to lead shot, the proposed regulations establish a procedure to identify and approve the use of other nonpoisonous shot materials that may be developed.

The gradual implementation of these proposed regulations is designed to allow adequate time for further developing production capacity and techniques for steel shot ammunition, and for gaining additional information about the lead poisoning problem in the two western flyways while, at the same time, initiating action against lead poisoning in the Atlantic Flyway where present information indicates the problem is most severe.

Copies of the draft Environmental Impact Statement are available for public inspection at Room 2246, Department of the Interior, 18th & C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. Single copies may be obtained by writing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Environmental Coordination, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Copies of the draft statement also are available from or for inspection at the following Fish and Wildlife Service regional offices.

1500 N.E. Irving Street  
Portland, Oregon 97208

17 Executive Park Drive, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

517 Gold Avenue, S.W.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

U.S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Federal Building, Fort Snelling  
Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

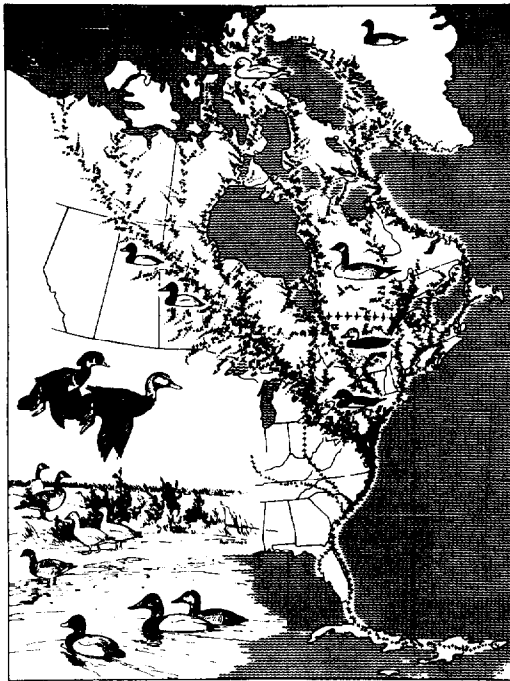
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

Those interested in commenting on the proposed regulations or the draft Environmental Impact Statement may address their remarks to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn: Office of Environmental Coordination, Washington, D.C. 20240.

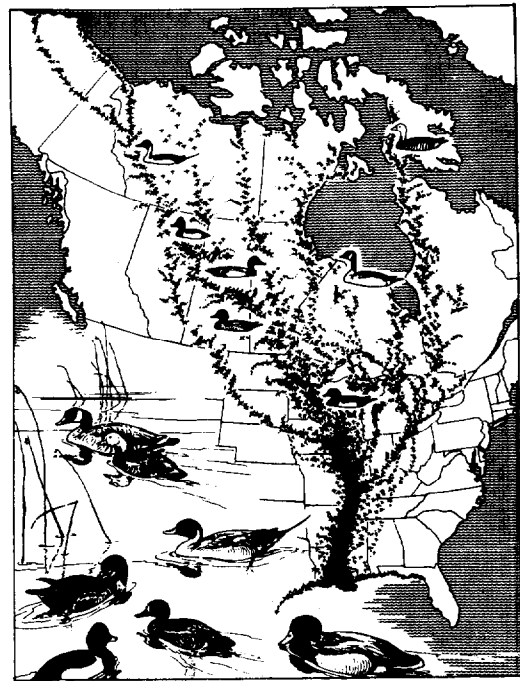
x x x

FLYWAY MAP IS ATTACHED

# WATERFOWL FLYWAYS OF NORTH AMERICA



Atlantic Flyway



Mississippi Flyway



Central Flyway



Pacific Flyway

By returning bands found on banded ducks and geese, thousands of people all over America help wildlife biologists determine the routes, or flyways, used by our waterfowl between their northern nesting grounds and southern wintering areas. Banding records are maintained, and results analyzed, by



Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

